



PRESS NOTICE

BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EASLEY WOMAN RECEIVES 21 MONTHS FOR WIRE FRAUD

Columbia, South Carolina---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated that Jenny C. Hood, age 35, of Easley, South Carolina, was sentenced in federal court in Anderson, South Carolina, for wire fraud , a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343. Senior United States District Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr. of Anderson sentenced Hood to 21 months imprisonment and ordered her to pay \$131,000 in restitution to the victim of her crime.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that Hood was an employee of Action Research Corporation ("ARC") and had access to the accounts payable account pursuant to her job duties. From March 2009 to February 2011, Hood diverted funds belonging to ARC to her personal accounts totaling \$126,073.92 beyond her

payroll income. The additional funds were hidden by falsification of the payroll ledgers after their submission to ARC's payroll processing company. Hood obtained additional funds by making "payroll" payments to contract and former employees during the pay periods they were not present or following their departure from ARC. Hood constructed seemingly normal payroll payments for these employees and diverted the funds to her bank account.

The case was investigated by agents of the United States Secret Service. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

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